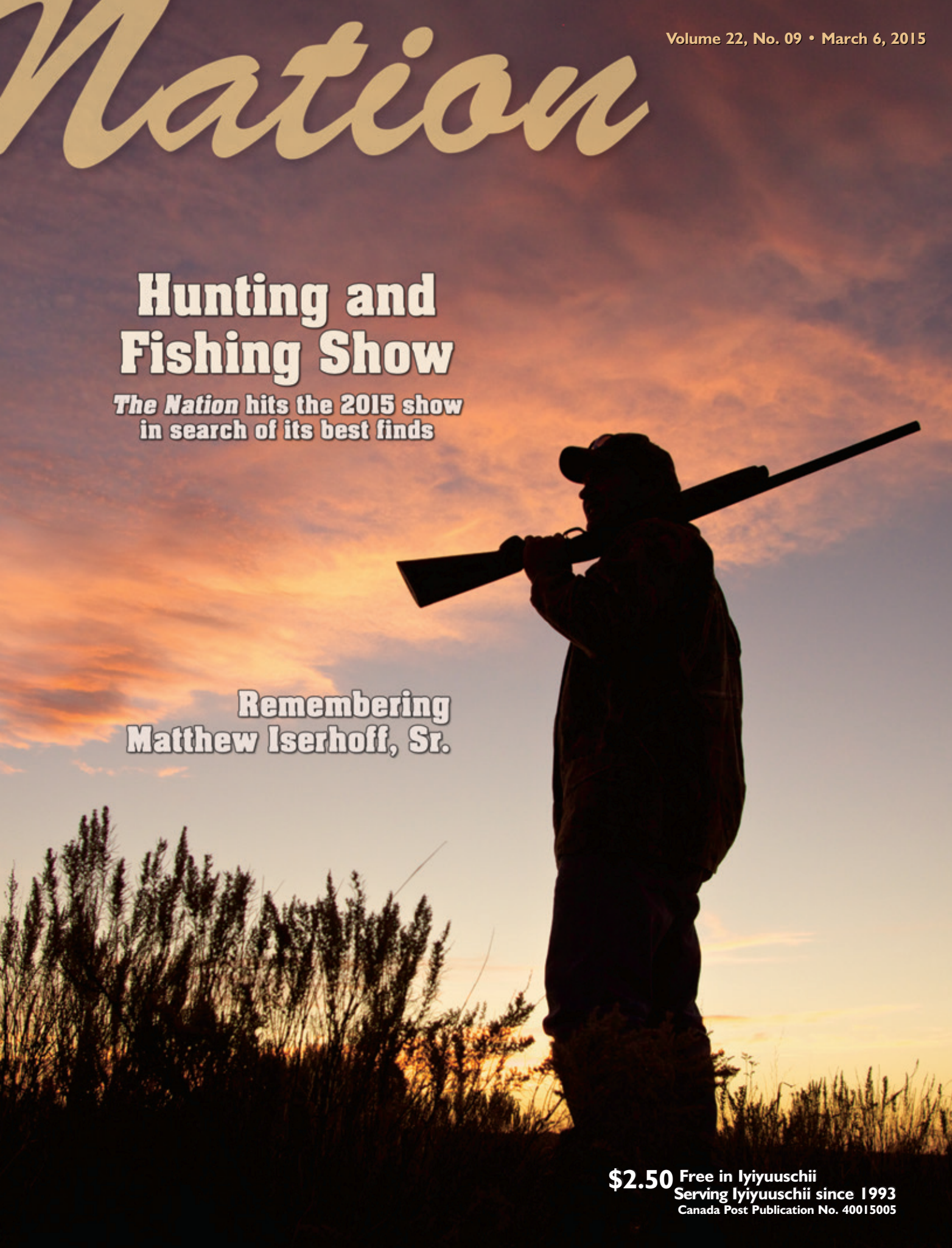
Nation

Volume 22, No. 09 • March 6, 2015

Hunting and Fishing Show

The Nation **hits the 2015 show in search of its best finds**

Remembering Matthew Iserhoff, Sr.



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The Nation has gone digital.

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editorial

If you don't first succeed...

by Will Nicholls

For too many of us, a proposal to create a boarding school for Aboriginal students is like the return of a bad dream.

Educator Harvey McCue (aka Waubageshig), who once worked for the Cree School Board, spoke of the proposal recently on the CBC program The 180, saying a new type of boarding school might be the best hope for Aboriginal children and youth.

"A lot of boys and girls in the elementary and secondary school levels would be removed from what I describe as a toxic environment of overcrowding, poor nutrition, presence of alcohol and drugs, the threat of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and put into warm and protective living conditions where proper nutrition and less overcrowding and in particular staffed by individuals who would care and protect these kids," said McCue.

In the US, McCue says, the Bureau of Indian Affairs runs over 30 boarding schools and the Navaho Nation alone has more than a dozen supported by leaders and parents.

Though McCue claims the idea got a "fairly positive" reception, one wouldn't know it from the comments on the CBC website, where only a tiny minority supported his call. Many listeners were outraged. Some called his boarding schools proposal just a way to rebrand the residential school system to make it more acceptable. Even McCue recognizes his model is based on the residential school system but says with community input and support it could work.

However, even some non-Natives who were forced to attend boarding schools said it has affected their lives to this day even though they weren't abused. The concentration of children away from their families and culture is not suggested for non-Native communities that face similar problems, however.

Boarding schools are nothing new and continue to this day. Just look at Thunder Bay where from 2000 to 2011 seven First Nations students died while attending school away from their community.

Another question is who and how will they decide what children should be taken away from their families? Is this another way to show Aboriginal people can't handle their lives, families, communities and future? Do we want private operators to profit from the difficulties some children face?

Perhaps the most telling response to this proposal came from one website commenter, "Is it April 1st already? Is this a joke?"

McCue's call to save the children is one that we have all heard before, and it is flawed. At best it would be a stopgap solution that would solve nothing in the long run. Instead, we need to address the issues that affect First Nations – the overcrowding, the poor nutrition, abuse, drugs and alcohol and so on. Those deep-rooted problems in many First Nations were nourished and flourished as a result of the residential school system. Giving it a new name and a few changes would not change anything for the better.

The answer is to properly fund and manage our own education systems, in our communities, while facing our social problems head-on with adequate resources to do so.

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Cultural spanking

by Joshua Iserhoff

Thank heavens for Mutshoo beesum. I believe that warm weather will (eventually) come according to Elders and CTV's gorgeous meteorologist Lori Graham. Until then, keep warm. And I can't help but wonder how a roasted groundhog would taste!

I am writing this column with a friend of mine. I introduce you to Darryl Diamond of Waskaganish (yes, from the dynasty Diamond clan). We have been working together since the Roundtable Capacity Building's inception in 2013. Think of it as a dialogue between two colleagues bringing a message about nation building.

Darryl and I have been discussing the fate of our future, on and off.

Darryl: Finishing the community visits of Phase II was a big orientation of our Cree Nation. How about you, Youth Grand Chief?

Joshua: I really enjoyed seeing everyone come together, especially traveling to Moose Factory! I always thought I knew everyone, turns out I don't.

Darryl: It was my first time in years and I was tremendously impressed. The people reminded me very much of hard work, having fun and there being things to take care of.

Joshua: As we move into building our Cree Empire, do you think we're going to be okay? And what do we need to do to get there?

Darryl: I need coffee first from Tim's in Mistissini (LOL).

Joshua: Chibougamau is closer to you buddy!

Darryl: Dabwe nah! Like the visits, knowing what we Cree have is a must, knowing what we need is second, like what we don't have badimah (at the moment). And we gotta talk to each other about it, I believe.

Joshua: We all know that everything starts at home: discipline, chores, and work ethic. From your orientation what have you noticed?

Darryl: I saw that we have big, inspiring ideas, but I noticed the work has to be done by the person who has these ideas. I feel anyone who has the great idea can make it happen, even if it takes a long time. I think the person who puts in the effort to make them happen will learn a lot about themselves. What I believe about home discipline is showing I listened and learning from mistakes, setbacks and the big or small accomplishments. And yes – a good spanking from Dad set me straight…. ha ha (thanks Dad).

Joshua: Yep, I had my share of spankings and I have forgiven my dad lol!

Joshua: What ideas surprised you the most? And what inspiration did you take from those ideas?

Darryl: Always the Oprah-ee you! I was surprised when I heard one of my hometown Elders give a tongue-lashing about keeping our culture going. I felt like a teenager. I mean discipline is never fun but it's needed and I felt like that when I heard him. Another surprise was a youngster wrote out the need to be connected to our language, our culture, our ways but she also asked: how do I do that? I was amazed when appreciation was stated about our Elders. I take inspiration that my people need good proper and healthy working Cree.

Joshua: I agree! We need cultural spanking!

There you have it folks! Reznotes special edition! Thank you Mr. Diamond!

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The sound of the police

The SQ aren't debt collectors, but will help creditors track down those in debt

by Jesse Staniforth

No one likes to receive a surprise call from the police – especially not if the police are calling to ask about money you owe someone. But it's even stranger when the police officer won't give their identity.

That's what recently happened to Bertie Wapachee, general manager of the Chisasibi Business Service Centre. He knew he owed money to Matagami's Ultra Sport Garage, where he had brought in his ski-doo for repair. The cost of the repairs came to over $1,200 and he couldn't afford it, so he had simply left the ski-doo on the company's lot.

"I took the ski-doo there last spring," he told the Nation. "Personal financial difficulties slowed me down from catching up on all my bills, so I had to put some [of them] on hold, including my ski-doo. I thought they probably sold it already, [which was] why the garage never called me. I tried contacting them about three weeks ago, and called there about three times, but only got the fax."

It seems as though Wapachee had the wrong number for the company – their fax and telephone numbers are different. This was one piece of bad luck. The other appeared when Ultra Sport's owner Jean-François Leduc tried to get in contact with Wapachee.

"This was about a Bombardier-550 snowmobile, a 2007 model," Leduc explained. "It had been in our yard for one year. The client had been told that his snowmobile was ready [after repair], but he didn't come to get it. We tried to contact him on multiple occasions, but we always got his voice-mailbox – and we couldn't leave messages, because the mailbox was always full."

This was the point when things got uncomfortable. Two weeks ago, Wapachee says, he received a call from someone claiming to be an officer of the Sûreté du Québec – except the officer was calling from a blocked number and would not give his name or rank.

Wapachee said his initial instinct was to believe one of two things was happening: one, that the SQ was somehow involved in collecting debts on behalf of a private business; or two, that someone from Ultra Sport was impersonating a police officer in order to collect the debt (which would be a crime). As it turns out, neither of these suspicions was true.

Speaking to the Nation, Sergeant Gilbert Deschênes, Director of SQ Offices for Matagami et Radisson, explained that the SQ is never involved in the collection of private debts.

However, he said, "The only time there is a recovery of debt is when there is a court-ordered mandate. That happens. But not for private businesses. I don't know the whole story, but if a vehicle has been towed, or returned, to a garage, and then it is abandoned there or left in storage, it happens sometimes that research is made by police to determine where the owner is, and who it is who is responsible for the debt. That's not the same thing as recovering debts."

Deschênes said he could not comment directly on the case. However, he stressed that there was a difference between a customer owing a debt to a private business, like Wapachee's debt to Ultra Sport, and the SQ calling to attempt to locate the owner of the vehicle.

"For us," Deschênes said, "with a vehicle that was abandoned or towed, or left in storage, it's possible that the police officer will try to locate the owner and determine where he is. But it's not for recovering debts." The recovery of debts, he stressed, is a civil matter between the business and the customer, and the police are never involved in those civil issues.

This was, in fact, a plausible description of what had happened. Leduc explained that after he had been unable to contact Wapachee directly after one year, he was in a position under Revenu Québec law to legally take possession of the ski-doo in question in return for the value of the bill owing.

"Because we couldn't reach him," Leduc said, "I had no choice – I filled out Form 138 from the Sûreté de Québec, that I sent to the government of Quebec, and the government does its own research to try to locate the client. If they can't locate the client, they send us the paper that says that we now own the vehicle in exchange for the money owing. That's what happened."

The only unexplained detail of the incident is why, as Wapachee claims, the SQ officer – whom Leduc identified as Alexandre Bruno – did not identify himself over the phone. The Nation's attempts to contact Officer Bruno directly were redirected to Sergeant Deschênes. He explained again that he could not comment on the specific details of an investigation, or of allegations of an officer's conduct, to a third party who was not a complainant or his lawyer.

Nonetheless, said Deschênes, any call from the SQ is supposed to follow a set of rules.

"The first thing we do on a call is we identify ourselves," he said. "If the person we're calling does not believe us, which happens sometimes over the phone, then we give them the number [of the local SQ station] and we ask them to call us back at that number. That's how it works. If the person still doesn't believe us, we ask them to visit the closest police station to them to discuss the issue in person with officers there. We establish contact with another person [at that station] – so it's always possible to verify the validity of the officer on the phone."

It would be against protocol, therefore, for an officer not to identify himself during a telephone call, as Wapachee alleges that Officer Bruno did in his call. In that case, Deschênes is adamant that members of the public should report such breaches of protocol to him directly.

"If the customer [of Ultra Sport] feels that he has been treated unprofessionally by the SQ," he said, "or if he feels that they have not represented themselves appropriately, I invite him to contact me to talk about the problem. I invite anyone who feels that way to contact me to let me know if they feel that they have been treated unprofessionally by a member of the SQ's Matagami detachment."

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March 8th is International Women's Day!

Let's "Make it Happen!"

All around the world, International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.

For this occasion CWEIA is hosting its "3rd Outstanding Women Awards" to recognize women in the following fields: Business – Politics - Arts and Culture - Promotion and Fitness – Education - Public Service - Volunteer Award for Youth, Women and Elders.

International Women's Day

Papal bullies

Movement works for repeal of Papal Bulls of Discovery

by Joshua Grant

Justice Murray Sinclair, the Ojibway chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is considering endorsing a growing movement among Canada's Indigenous communities to call upon the Vatican to repeal the Papal Bulls of Discovery, which granted explorers in the 15th century complete impunity in their dealings with First Nations.

The decrees granted Catholic explorers "full and free power, authority and jurisdiction of every kind" to "conquer the New World and the 'heathen' Aboriginals that call it home." It was, they said, the explorers' duty "to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands and countries to embrace the Christian religion" and granted them the right to enslave and kill any Aboriginal people who resisted.

According to the United Nations and human rights activists, the Papal Bulls legitimize the treatment of First Nations people as "less than human." They also are part of historical disputes between the federal government and Native communities. A 2009 UN investigation concluded that these proclamations are "at the root of the violations of Indigenous peoples' human rights…" and a direct cause of the "mass appropriation of the lands, territories and resources of Indigenous peoples."

When resolving modern disputes over land, legal rights of outsiders over First Nations territory still sometimes reference the Papal Bulls of Discovery in their claims to Native land.

Sinclair says that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is considering backing calls for the Catholic Church to repudiate the orders. The commission is examining the Catholic edicts from 1455 and 1493 as part of its impact analysis of Canada's Indian residential schools. A growing number of activists are appealing to the Vatican to help establish a new relationship with Aboriginals based on equality and respect.

Keith Matthew, a former chief of the Simpcw First Nation in British Columbia, is one activist building support for the repeal of the bulls. He recently helped lobby for the passing of a resolution by the Assembly of First Nations that supports their eradication.

"The papal bulls put us in a position no better than animals," Matthew told the National Post. "We know better today. We're just as civilized and human as anybody else in this world. It's really about righting a historic wrong."

Still others, such as Hayden King, director of Ryerson University's Centre for Indigenous Governance, feel that a simple repeal would not go far enough to establish true reconciliation between the Canadian government and First Nations. King argues that it would be more meaningful for the Crown to recognize that its so-called sovereignty over Native land is based on the "fairy tale" that Aboriginal people are not human. "Unless there was corresponding action, it would seem kind of hollow," King added.

Researching the past underwater

Prior to the construction of the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric dam in 2006, an archaeological survey was conducted on the areas about to be flooded by the 603-square-kilometre reservoir.

Almost 10 years after the construction of the dam, the Canadian Museum of History and the University of Ottawa Press have jointly published *Ce que la rivière nous procurait*, a book on the diverse scientific research that was conducted. Edited by Pierre Bibeau, David Denton and André Burroughs, the book's 18 chapters cover topics on archaeology, geography and history of Eeyou Istchee.

For three years, from 2002 to 2005, a concerted effort to extract and preserve over 5,000 years of human life in the affected areas was conducted by the Société d'énergie de la Baie James as well as the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program in coordination with the Cree Nation.

The huge effort and collaboration of the archaeological teams from Arkéos Inc. and the Cree Nation involved over 150 archaeological dig sites covering thousands of years of human history. The bilingual book – three chapters in English and 15 in French – is available online from the University of Ottawa Press website.

Most chiefs earn about $65,000

For some it was a surprise – after 554 First Nations chiefs provided their fiscal paperwork to the federal government under the First Nations Transparency Act, the median salary for a band chief in Canada salary was determined to be roughly $64,716.

Some 28 First Nations refused to provide their audited consolidated financial statements to the government in protest against the paternalistic nature of the law.

There is the wide variety of salaries. Though most chiefs fall within the $65,000 range, five chiefs are paid more than $200,000, while 10 earn less than $10,000. Chief Randy Porter of BC's Bonaparte Indian Band is not paid for his position, while Chief Ron Giesbrecht of BC's Kwikwetlem First Nation earned a bonus-boosted total of $914,000 last year – making him the subject of widespread outrage in the Canadian media.

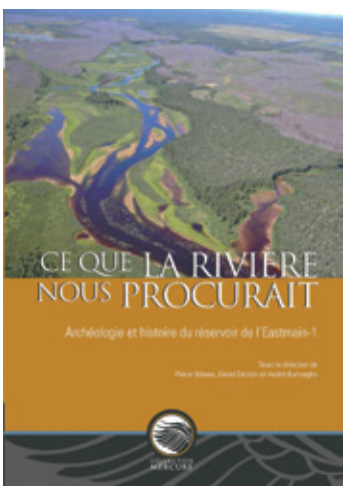
National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations responded to the news by telling the Toronto Star, "I think it should tell you that First Nations chiefs and councils are paid fairly.

We have some exceptions, but there are also some that are at the opposite end of the scale, like even below the poverty line. You should not take the one or two examples to the extreme and paint all the chiefs with the same brush."

Waskaganish wings away with Nochimii Cup

The results are in from the 2015 Nochimii Cup at the Nemeska Sports Complex February 20-22, featuring teams from Chisasibi, Nemeska, Mistissini, Waskaganish, Waswanipi and Wemindji competing in Class A and Class B hockey as well as Women's broomball.

In the Consolation Broomball finals the Waswanipi Eagles topped the Waskaganish Wildstars by a score of 3-0. In the Broomball Finals it took double overtime for the Nemeska Capitals to topple the Waskaganish Starlites by a score of 2-1.



Ce que la rivière nous procurait

Members of Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee visit site on the Eastmain River: (from left to right) Kenneth Gilpin, Bella Jolly, late Louisa Etapp, late Charlie Etapp, late George Cannashish, Florrie Mark-Stewart, Jamie Moses

In class B Hockey competition, the Nemeska Axemen took home the Consolation prize, defeating the Wemindji Slyfoxes 3-1. The Waskaganish Hawks took home first place, edging out the Chisasibi Kings 3-2.

The Waskaganish Wings were winners of the Class A Hockey division, beating out the Wemindji Wolves 4-2 in their Finals matchup.

Cree Regional Events and Entertainment has announced their next major event – a Minor Hockey and Broomball Tournament taking place in Val-d'Or April 9-12 and offering a wide range of competition. The tournament will offer Peewee, Bantam and Midget Hockey, Cadet, Midget and Juvenile Broomball (U12, U15 and U17 respectively) along with Junior Hockey and Broomball and Competitive Women's Junior Hockey. Follow the C.R.E.E. on Facebook and stay tuned for more details regarding registration and participation.

Mistissini Living Water lawsuit awaits verdict

The last of the court proceedings over the Living Water Assembly lawsuit wrapped up, February 16, in Mistissini. Now, says lawyer Benoit Amuyot, "Everybody is just waiting."

Amuyot told the Nation that the defendant Joseph Blacksmith presented his argument to the charges brought against him and his colleagues by stating that he was simply "following the will of the people."

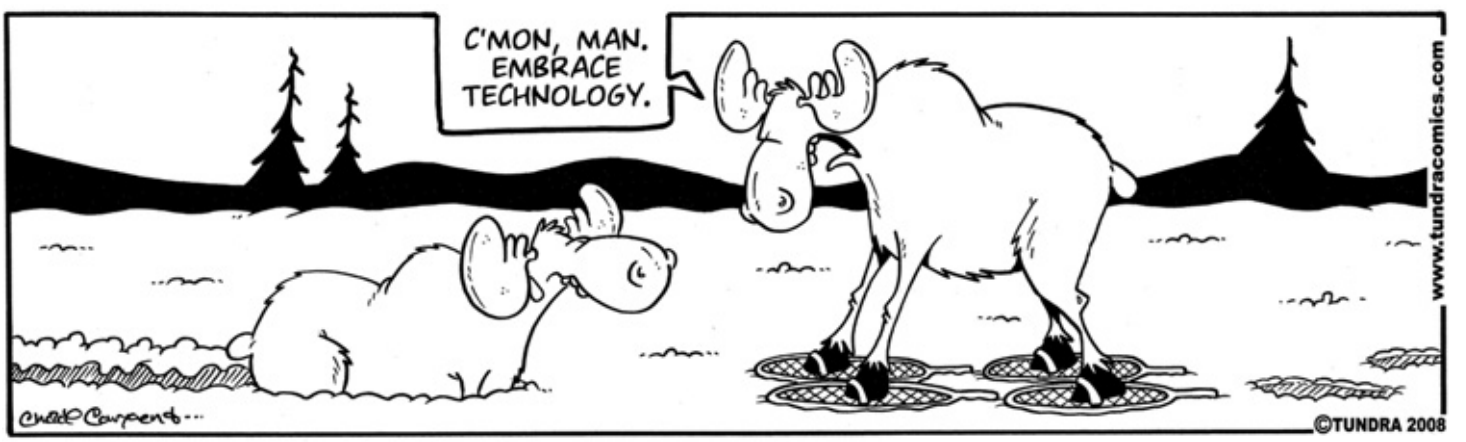
Amuyot represents the original Living Water Assembly, its board of directors and Pastor Johnny Dixon. They claim that Blacksmith breached a local bylaw in his efforts to disaffiliate Mistissini's local church from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC), taking over church property, attempting to access the church's financial resources and appropriating the name "Living Water Assembly" to found a new non-profit in the aim of forming a separate congregation.

The plaintiffs reiterated their view that any move to disaffiliate from the PAOC must be done in accordance with local laws regarding religious institutions and with the full participation of the church community. They also say a member of the PAOC must be on hand to ensure the legitimacy of the proceedings.

Amuyot stressed the importance of the right to information and the right to speak of all those involved in the church controversy. Now they are waiting for the final ruling, which, according to Amuyot, will likely be returned in the next couple of months.

Congratulations on your retirement Mabel! Thank you for all of your hard work!

Cree Health Board retiring Executive Director Mabel Herodier at her Retirement party and feast held in Chisasibi on February 26th.



feature

To hunt and fish and camp

The Nation hits the 2015 show in search of its best finds

by Amy German

To help you trick out your outdoors experience, The Nation visited the Hunting, Fishing & Camping Show at Place Bonaventure February 19-22, where we checked out what's new in gear, guns and gizmos.

The event featured 250 exhibitors, sprawled out over 225,000 square feet of showroom, showcasing the latest trends and products, accessories, outfitters, outdoor destinations, fishing boats and ATVs.

We started with the Browning company, who there to showcase their new and wonderful additions to the world of rifles. According to Nation Editor Will Nicholls, his pick from the Brownings was the A5, which he qualified at "amazing."

According to the Browning Company, the Auto-5 was the world's first successful auto-loading scattergun, or shotgun. A promising new addition to this

product line, Ducks Unlimited has picked it as the 2015 Gun of the Year.

"It's loaded with enough great features to make any Cree happy. Basically the Browning A5 claims to be the most reliable, fastest cycling, best performing and softest shooting recoil-operated (yes, recoil-operated) autoloader on the planet. The A5 3 1/2" version is available in barrel lengths of 26", 28" and 30". To reduce felt recoil, the A5 comes with an Inflex II recoil pad. Look it up and you'll drool. The A5 feels light and swings fast," said Nicholls.

www.browning.com

Nicholls was also drawn to the Remington Model 783 because it's a lightweight rifle available in a number of calibres.

Widely praised, the Model 783 was recently chosen as the Game & Fish/Sportsman Magazine reader's choice in a poll of over 3000 hunters who loved its user-adjustable trigger, accuracy, compact size and general reliability.

"A cool feature is the shot control as the 783 is equipped with the new CrossFire trigger system that's user adjustable to suit your preferences. You decide whether or not you want a hair trigger or anything less," explained Nicholls.

Lightweight at only 7.2 lbs (3.27 kg) and a lightweight price at around $451 (recommended), Nicholls praised the 783 as one of his picks of the day.

"While some may call this a starter rifle, many older hunters are praising it. After holding it I found it to be something I would seriously consider to be a welcome addition to any hunt," said Nicholls.

www.remington.com

At the Vortex table we met Alain Guinette who was offering various pairs of binoculars. His favourite was the new Crossfire, which came in the 10x50, 12x50, 8x42 and 10x42 configurations.

"This is a great pair of binoculars because it is in the $200 range and for that price you get great quality, bright images, a nice focus knob and this is all backed up by a no-fault warranty," explained Guinette.

"They perform really well in cold temperatures. The focus knob won't freeze up and it is totally waterproof so there won't be any internal fogging. It is the same thing with hot temperatures."

Beside Guinette's table was Mario Dutil from Viper Riflescopes, who was eager to show us the 2.5 -10.44 Deadhold DDCMOA model.

"It's great because it's not expensive. It is very lightweight, very accurate and very clear. It works particularly well in very cold conditions because of the nitrogen inside of the scope," said Dutil.

www.vortexoptics.com

Next we met Pierre Lagace from Agence Denis Gendron, who was showing the luxurious products that Zeiss had on display. While Zeiss products might be synonymous with the ultimate in quality and the price tag reflects that, Lagace said there is a range of products for every budget.

"Zeiss is a German brand of riflescopes and German is synonymous with superior quality. Zeiss is world renowned for its lenses as they do a lot of research and development in this area," said Lagace.

"They make lenses for glasses, microscopes, telescopes and all other kinds of equipment. Their R & D for glass is very advanced so when you apply that technology to riflescopes you end up with something higher quality than anything else on the market."

While a top-of-the-line Zeiss riflescope may cost around $3,500, they also have a range of excellent quality scopes that start around $525. According to Lagace, this would be a solid investment in a product that will likely last a lifetime.

www.zeiss.com

At the Rampart International display, which mainly carries tactical equipment that could be used for hunting, Nicholls' eye was caught by the CamelBak - ThermoBak 2L, a hydration backpack that is perfect for a long, hot day out on the land.

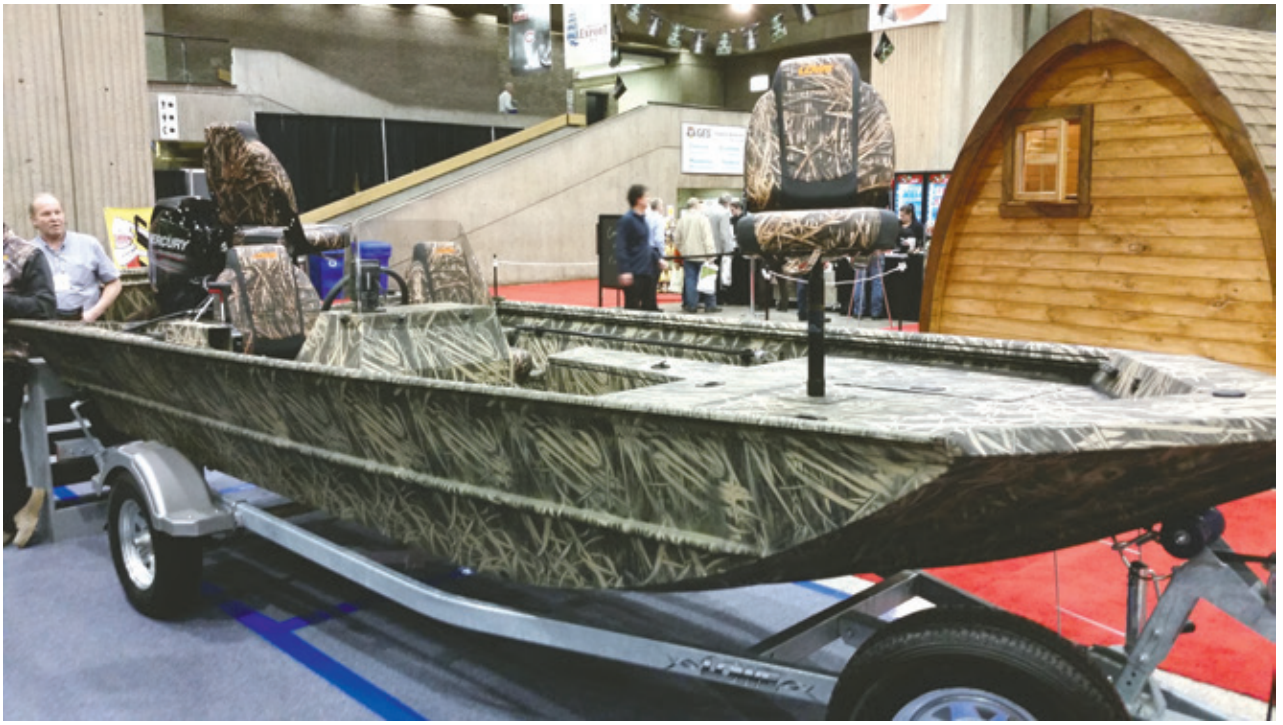
According to Rampart's Kyle Sorrie, these camo backpacks have been around forever and they are the brand name when it comes to hydration units.

"What's great about the military grade is that you have something that's strong and will last a lot longer. It's also anti-micro bacterial and the textiles are stronger too. Instead of normal nylon, reinforced materials are used so it will last longer and not rip. For a hunting application, it comes in coyote brown and multi-cam so it's not like you are wearing a bright blue bag while on a hunt," said Sorrie.

www.shop.rampartcorp.com

The smiling face of Rheal Charlebois from Recall Designs is always a sight for sore eyes as he and his incredible rainbow of calls is just so much fun to peruse.

"The show is just gearing up for me; I am showcasing my products and giving out information on them. This year, I have a new kind of turkey call and I also have my new Short Fuse line which are very popular," said Charlebois.



Bright and compact, the new Short Fuse model is a sweet and sturdy little call that packs a big loud call that could certainly be heard throughout the show room.

www.recalldesigns.com

One of the funnier things about attending the show with Nicholls is that the lower part of the showroom is a constant cacophony of fowl and game calls and other sounds. The Nation boss always feels compelled to answer them in his exuberance for the event and thrill of an upcoming hunt.

However, he is not the only one. The huge room echoes with the sounds of ducks, geese, turkeys and other less identifiable species and excited hunters letting out their calls to show off their vocals to their like-minded show-goers.

Along with the firearms, hunting clothes, the latest in fishing technology from scanners to reels and outfitting camps from every corner of Quebec, there are those who come to the event annually to hawk vacations geared at those who might opt for a more exotic kind of fishing in the deep sea.

Every year the Nation runs into Mackie, a flashily dressed representative from the Cape May, New Jersey, who represents various New Jersey tourism offices while walking on stilts.

"This year we are back again to showcase Cape May and Wildwood," said Mackie. "There are beaches for families in Wildwood that are just wonderful. There is fine dining, entertainment, campgrounds and casinos that are just miles apart. There is something for everybody. For those who love to fish, the shores and deep sea await. The fish run all season long and you can catch anything from flounder to tuna."

www.thejerseycape.com

For those looking to improve their rustic hunting camps, David Gouvard from Énergie Solaire, a Laval-based solar panel company, offered an alternative power source.

"We have solar panels and a wide variety of products from the US, Germany and China that can suit the needs of all sorts of clientele," said Gouvard.

"These are just great for your bush cabin because just a small kit can get your small items like your lights, TVs and phones running. Lots of hunters invest in these kinds of things.

Generally for the hunting cabins we need solar panels for lighting, for fun and for water pumps and a 250-watt solar panel is great for that."

www.solarenergydc.com

Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

Tracking small game

E Mihtâkanuwihch E Pîshâshich Nitûhuwin

A new video at **www.hydloandfriends.com**

Kenny Jolly, tallyman.

Technician Rose Wapachee and tallyman representative Jimmy James Neeposh observe the landscape.

Ptarmigan tracks.

Ptarmigans

A team accompanied by tallymen flew over the Rupert and the diversion bay areas. Their objective was to assess the use of riparian habitats by small game after the partial diversion of the Rupert. They counted the different species, many of which are important for hunting and trapping.

To watch the video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

Each month, a new video will be added to www.hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, March 11,
at 8:00 a.m.

Among our favourite finds of the day was Happy Yak products, a vendor and creator of delicious dehydrated meals that can be efficiently tucked away into a backpack as a life saver when a hunt or a fishing trip does not go to plan.

Featuring soups, stews and all kinds of exotic meals that just need to be rehydrated, according to Natasha, who was manning the table, these meals are created through "lyophilisation" – more commonly known as freeze-drying. What's great about these meals is that you end up with food that springs back to its original splendour when prepared – vitamin rich and delicious.

All of the meals are prepared with meat, legumes and soy protein so that you are getting something healthy that will keep you going for hours. Sold at various sport and adventure stores in Quebec, you can also order them online.

www.happyyak.ca

Another sight that always delights us at this show is the folk from Mistissini Tourism to promote the natural virtues of Lake Mistissini. At the booth this year was David Mianscum, who was busy chatting with some excited fishermen.

"A lot of people drop by to find out about Lake Mistissini. This time we are selling them on the fishing camps, we have two in the area – Osprey and Camp Louis Joliette," he said between pitches to potential clients.

Our attention was caught by the NaïtUp Roof Top Tent, which looks like something that could be a real lifesaver while traveling.

NaïtUp claims the pop-up tent can be installed on the rooftop of all vehicles with the use of just two roof bars and in 30 seconds flat. What is interesting about this product was how sturdy it looked while offering the opportunity for a tent with a panoramic view, and a night's sleep devoid of soil moisture, animals or pests and danger.

www.naitupstore.com/ca/en

Emerging from the show, Nicholls was both satisfied and elated. The look in his eye revealed it all – he is now ready to jump at any chance to get out into the bush and onto the water. This is what visiting this show does to its patrons – anticipate all of the good that is to come.

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Congratulations Graduates!

Photo by Brian Stewart of Chisasibi

Graduation Ceremony held in Chisasibi on January 16, 2015.

Top: left to right
Ricky Visitor, George Jolly, Cory Holland, David House, Patrick Sam, Brandon Chakapash & Steven D.T. Sam

Bottom: left to right
Meequin Ottereyes, Darwin Sam, Mary-Louise Rupert, Jimmy A. Fireman, Janna Sam, Sheldon Cowboy, Angelina Matthew & Joel Benjamin

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

General Education

English Sector
Jimmy A. Fireman
David House
Meequin Ottereyes
Darwin Sam

French Sector
Jonathan Cowboy
Angelina Matthew

Vocational Programs

Northern Heavy Equipment Operations
Joel Benjamin
Brandon Chakapash
Sheldon Cowboy
Samuel Fireman
Cory Holland
George Jolly
Manuan Lafond
Mary-Louise Rupert
Janna Sam
Patrick Sam
Steven D.T. Sam
Ricky Visitor

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Sabtuan Adult Education Services
Service de l'éducation des adultes Sabtuan

Reflections on the life of Matthew Iserhoff, Sr.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, my wife Danielle and I received the news that Matthew Iserhoff, Sr. had passed away that morning. He was the father of our son-in-law, Matthew A. Iserhoff. Our hearts were broken.

I first met Mr. Iserhoff in Montreal in 1970. He was enrolled at McGill University's Education Program and I was following a two-year pre-university program at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia). I knew Mr. Iserhoff to be a serious, dedicated and accomplished man with dreams he pursued with great success.

During our time in Montreal he gave me good pointers on how to succeed in school and about surviving in an urban setting. He was my role model.

I hadn't seen Mr. Iserhoff for many years after Danielle and I returned home in 1974. When we went back to Montreal in the early 1980s to further our studies, I ran into him at a bus stop; that's when he told me his eight-year old son (Matthew Jr.) had had a terrible accident and was fighting for his life after multiple surgeries (his son recovered and just a little over a decade later, became my son-in-law).

In the face of this terrible tragedy Mr. Iserhoff displayed great faith and remained strong.

Mr. Iserhoff served the Cree Nation and his community in a number of capacities. He was one of the first hosts of CBC's Maamuitaau, a position he held for many years. He also worked for the Cree School Board in a number of capacities over a 34-year period until he retired a couple of years ago.

The late Matthew Iserhoff, Sr. will be remembered as a dedicated and loving family man. He was a man of great compassion for life, a devoted husband to Annie (Neeposh) and a loving and caring father to Ashley, Matthew, Jr. and Shawn. He exemplified what every husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle and friend should be – always doing what he thought necessary for the welfare and happiness of others. His legacy in this regard will live on throughout generations to come.

For all the good he's done for all of us who knew him well, we know late Matthew Iserhoff, Sr. is well on his journey in the Spirit World – the journey back home to Heaven.

Matthew Mukash, Member
Whapmagoostui First Nation

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) is seeking an:

Executive Director

Role of the Executive Director:

- Directing and coordinating the administration of the CBHSSJB, including its day-to-day administration and operations.
- Ensuring the quality of the services it provides.
- Ensuring that the Board of Directors receives the information it requires to fulfill its responsibilities; ensuring that necessary items are referred to the Board for its approval and that the decisions of the Board are carried out.
- Serving on all committees of the Board of Directors and liaising with its Chairperson in a timely fashion and on regular basis.
- Planning, organizing, coordinating, and evaluating the use of the CBHSSJB's human, financial, material and information resources, and ensuring the development of its human resources at the regional and local levels.
- Supervising the preparation and implementation of the annual budget and report, both of which must be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, and financial and statistical reports pertaining to CBHSSJB's activities.
- Supervising, evaluating and providing direction to senior personnel, recommending the appointment of senior management to the Board, and appointing other management personnel.
- Seeking and fostering participation, collaboration and communication, both internal and external and at all levels of the organization.
- Representing the CBHSSJB in its dealings with various government bodies, Cree entities and other persons or organizations providing services to the Cree communities as regards issues pertaining to operations, programming, services and facilities.

Requirements:

- Ten years of relevant professional experience with at least seven years in senior management positions.
- Knowledge and experience in the field of health and social services is an asset.
- Postgraduate university degree in administration in a health or social services discipline or other relevant field.
- Relevant Baccalaureate degree plus management experience might be considered in lieu of a postgraduate degree.
- Excellent working knowledge of French and English.
- Knowledge of the Cree language, Cree culture and Cree milieu are valuable assets.
- Knowledge of First Nation health and social issues, practices and trends, as well as postcolonial contexts.
- Knowledge and experience as regards the following are assets:
  - ~ Quebec Health and Social Services Network.
  - ~ Management of construction and capital projects.
  - ~ Negotiation with local, regional, provincial, and federal levels of governments.

Conditions:

- The position is based in Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee, Quebec. Remuneration and benefits are determined according to the policies of the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services, with adaptations for the northern context, and include a salary range (HC-7) from $127,083 to $174,878.

To apply for this position, please forward the following by e-mail ONLY at: **execdir.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**

- ~ Curriculum Vitae
- ~ A cover letter briefly describing your interest in applying for this position

Applications must be received by midnight Eastern Time on March 22, 2015
Applications sent by fax or after the deadline will not be accepted.
For more information about this position please visit our website at: **creehealth.org/careers**

Remembering Matthew Iserhoff, Sr.

I sat in the back room of the funeral home on the evening of Matthew's visitation. I sat by myself running through some memories I had of him. There was a beautiful procession of friends, associates, family and neighbours who came to pay their respects. It was a deeply moving scene.

Suddenly, I caught a glimpse of my neighbour coming in. Dany went to acknowledge Matthew and his family. He then noticed me and came to sit. I was really curious; I'd never associated Dany with Matthew at all. In French I asked him how he knew Matthew. He replied that he'd been playing hockey with him once or twice a week for 20 years. As my neighbour is a unilingual francophone, I asked if Matthew could speak French. My neighbour laughed, replying no, not really, but that his English was rockier than Matthew's French. I asked him if he knew anything about Matthew. He said no, not really. Over 20 years, Mathew had not shared, because he couldn't, but most likely didn't feel the need to. I proceeded to tell Dany some of the things I knew and he sat there interested, curious, and amazed.

I think this says a lot about what kind of effect Matthew had on people. Those who knew him better can point to moments, exchanges, and experiences with him, to the stories and achievements of his wife and children. But my neighbour knew none of these stories. He knew Matthew solely as a teammate, sharing all the camaraderie, bravado, and laughter and nothing more and nothing less, than those moments in the locker room and on the ice. And yet he felt compelled to pay his respects, to honour those moments with Matthew.

I was fortunate enough to be able to point to some anecdotes and stories. I met Julie and then Matthew and Annie and the boys early in my first few years in Chibougamau. As the English teacher at MacLean Memorial School, I had the great fortune of teaching Matthew Jr. and Shawn, bright, eager, motivated kids, hungry for truth, albeit with the patience and determination to try and work towards it.

Courage can get instilled when one least expects it. One night, about 20 years ago now, I was watching the musician Neil Young perform on television. I was in my early 30s. I was also getting old really quickly. And I sat there watching in awe and delight as this 50-year-old rocker whooped and stomped and flailed around the stage. I remember saying to myself, "Well, if that's what being 50 is all about, then being in my 50s is going to be alright!"

In 1995, my then-girlfriend, now wife, Annabel, became pregnant. When I first came up to teach in Chibougamau in 1991, I was a kid – in my 30s, but still a kid. I was terrified of becoming a father. When I'd see Matthew, he'd smile and say to me, "Better get your fishing trips in now, because when that baby comes you won't be doing any." And I could feel my brain start to bounce around inside my head. It couldn't be true! And he'd stand there with that faraway look, those twinkling eyes, and that big smile on his face.

But when I stood back and looked at Matthew, a proud man, an even prouder father, I told myself, "Well, if that's what fatherhood can do for a man, well it's going to be alright." Matthew knew what courage was, he knew where it was, and he had faith I'd find it.

Matthew had a marvellous way of making moments special. He could pack more meaning into a handshake, a smile, a joke, a gesture than anyone I've ever met. And he did this through kindness and humour, and living according to the values that he held dear. And he did this through genuine caring. Every time I would meet him he would always ask about each of my kids, and my wife, and how school was going. Whether it was a walking-out ceremony or a parent-teacher interview at the school (always the first parent there, 10 minutes before he was supposed to be), or simply encountering him on a walk, I was always delighted to see him, even though he would tease me relentlessly.

I always thought that he was the type of person I could aspire to be. Not "be" him, exactly, but to have that wonderful blend of grace, humour, pride and faith in those he loved.

I will miss you, Matthew. To know that we will not see that smile or hear that voice, to never see that funny way you moved your hands around when you talked, seems too cruel. But on the other hand, like many people you knew, I feel incredibly fortunate to have known you.

Goodbye, my friend. Safe travels.

Peter Halliday, teacher
MacLean Memorial School, Chibougamau

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After Tsilhqot'in

A Montreal conference discusses doing business in the new era of Aboriginal title

by Jesse Staniforth

The Conference on Business Partnerships with Aboriginal Communities, held in Montreal on February 10 and 11, wasn't simply the usual grip-and-grin networking event some in the Aboriginal business development community have come to expect. Instead, it was a direct response to the Supreme Court's historic Tsilhqot'in judgement last summer confirming that Band's right of title to its traditional Indigenous lands.

The immediate response to the ruling was a ripple of confusion about how companies would be able to do business on Aboriginal lands in the future, and the Business Partnerships with Aboriginal Communities conference was set up to create networking and discussion opportunities on that very subject. The event was organized by the Toronto-based Canadian Institute, a think-tank that organizes "market driven" conferences designed to encourage business relationships as well as to explain emerging trends that affect the way Canadian companies do business.

Heather Charlock, one of the Canadian Institute's organizers for the conference, explained, "Based on the Supreme Court's Tsilhqot'in judgment and past events we've done in this area, we realized that it was going to change the game when developers and promoters were going to want to develop projects that involved Aboriginal communities. That was the driver for the event."

The speakers that Charlock and her organization had arranged, she said, represented a variety of different bodies and organizations that had a common interest in devloping business in Aboriginal territories.

"Whether they were from industry, or from Aboriginal communities or professionals who counsel them," Charlock said, "they agreed to speak because they were involved, or still involved with, or looking to get involved in these types of projects that were going to involve Aboriginal communities in some way shape or form."

Conference on
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS with ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES
Join industry, Aboriginal and government stakeholders and obtain the latest information to develop business partnerships in a post-Tsilhqot'in environment
February 10 & 11, 2015 • Hyatt Regency • Montreal

Graphic from the brochure for the Conference on Aboriginal Business Relationships that took place in Montreal

The conference drew representatives from major organizations, both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous. These included the Grand Council of the Crees, naturally, as well as the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and a variety of other other major companies including Hydro-Québec, Mouvement Desjardins, and the scandal-plagued SNC-Lavalin (against whom the RCMP laid fraud and corruption charges just over a week later).

Conference materials promised a range of discussions around subjects such as post-Tsilhqot'in business consultations, the impact of that judgement on project financing, negotiating and drafting long-term agreements, and developing partnerships with Aboriginal communities for petroleum (oil and gas) development.

Nadir André, Partner at the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais, co-chaired the event and opened the first day.

André explained, "The purpose of the conference was to determine whether there's any difference between how things were done prior to [the Tsilhqot'in] ruling, and how things are done after. When you look at Tsilhqot'in, there's another issue that makes it a little bit easier for nomad Aboriginal groups to establish a title where before, it became almost an impossible task to establish title if you were not a sedentary First Nation, always in the same location, not travelling, not hunting. Now the Supreme Court has put more flexibility into the evidence brought forward to establish the exclusivity and continuity of the title on specific lands."

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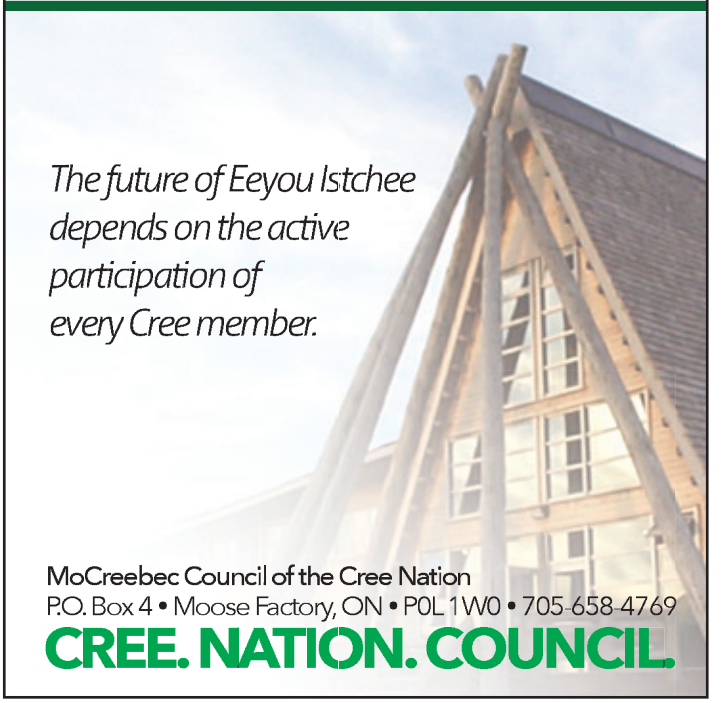

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He explaned the importance of the Tsilhqot'in decision in very basic terms, saying that for the first time the Supreme Court has recognized that third-parties—other than the Crown and First Nations—could be held accountable for development and actions taken on Aboriginal title land.

"Before that," he said, "it was an issue of infringement between the Crown and the First Nations, and there was the issue of fiduciary duty, honour of the Crown, possible compensation—because the Crown was the overall trustee that had to make sure that if they gave authorization or permits to industry, that Aboriginal rights were protected."

In light of the new decision, he said, the Crown retains its duty, but companies are now considered to be well-informed so that they can't ignore the issue of title.

"If you're going up there without the First Nation's consent, you're taking a risk," he concluded. "If you're an investor and you have, let's say, a mining project, and millions of dollars to invest, if you're aware that there's even the weakest possibility that a First Nation has a title on that territory where you want to have your project and all that investment, you want to make sure that you obtain consent from the First Nation. At the end of the day, the result of that ruling will increase the capacity of Aboriginal groups to negotiate impact-benefit agreements or other types of agreements with the industries or even government, because the liability has increased."

Still, the decision has yet to truly change the landscape of development on Indigenous territories.

"In theory, there could be a change in the way that the relationship is established between the Crown, industry, and First Nations—specially those who could still claim Aboriginal title. But otherwise, I would say that—knowing how the government works—the evidence is that seven or eight months after the ruling, has there been any modification in policies? Any changes in attitude, in Quebec or elsewhere? The answer is no."

"IF YOU'RE GOING UP THERE WITHOUT THE FIRST NATION'S CONSENT, YOU'RE TAKING A RISK."

The problem, he points out, is the incredible cost of driving legal challenges all the way through the courts. The Tsilhqot'in case was a major victory—but it cost a total of $31-million in legal fees.

"Can Atikamekw, or Algonquins, or Innu, or other First Nations that don't have a lot of own-source revenue afford such cases in court and be able to go all the way to the Supreme Court to prove their Aboriginal title—and be successful? There's still a big question mark."

All the same, he said he sees the changes as fundamentally positive, particularly because they strengthen the regime of consultation and accomodation that for years many First Nations have complained provided them little ability to defend themselves.

"The Supreme Court in its wisdom saw that consultation and accomodation was not enough. Consultation—everybody consults now, but what about accommodation? You're providing the information, sending the letters, having public assemblies in each community where there's a project, but then you never know what goes on after, and why the government has approved the project or not. So the accommodation was a true weakness. I think the intent of the Supreme Court was to balance things off a bit."

These are the early stages of an entirely new kind of law for those wishing to engage in resource development on Indigenous lands, and André nods to the conflict over Strateco's Matoush uranium development project outside of Mistissini as an indicator of what the next major fight may be.

Strateco, he said, "was willing to sit down and negotiate with the Cree Nation and get involved—in this case, the Cree community decided this project was not acceptable on its territory and opposed the project. The government imposed the BAPE process and the moratorium, and so now the project is not going along. So even in some cases where industry is trying to reach consent—if you're telling me that regardless of what I propose, you will not provide me consent, this is the next case. The Strateco case—it's probably the next standard."

Remembering our women

Montreal protest march brings new meaning to Valentine's Day

by Joshua Grant

Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, a grassroots Montreal campaign, shifted the focus of Valentine's Day away from flowers and Hallmark cards this year to address the mistreatment, violence and disappearance of Native women across the country.

Hundreds of supporters braved -30 temperatures during a march from Cabot Square down Sainte-Catherine Street to Phillips Square. They were accompanied by the Buffalo Hat Singers powwow drums and groups of Dené, Mohawk, Cree and other First Nations communities.

The goal was to raise awareness of the issues regarding the treatment of Native women in Canada, which continue to be ignored by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) distributed sheet compiled on the phenomenon of violence against Aboriginal women, documenting 583 cases of missing or murdered First Nations, Inuit and Métis women in Canada alone. According to their stats from 2000 to 2008, Aboriginal women make up 3% of Canada's population and yet disproportionally represent 10% of the country's female homicides. Almost half of the cases reported by the NWAC are unresolved, with a mere 53% clearance rate amongst them, compared to Canada's national clearance rate which sits at 84%.

Research conducted by the NWAC shows that Indigenous women are almost three times more likely to be killed by a stranger than non-Aboriginals: 16.5% of their cases involved offenders without any previous connection to the woman or girl attacked, while 17% of offenders

are acquaintances of the victim and 23% are current or former romantic partners.

Numbers show that the majority of disappearances or murders take place in urban areas (70% of those disappeared and 60% of those found murdered) while only 7% of those missing and 13% of those murdered occurred in Native communities. 54% of these cases were reported in British Columbia and Alberta, 29% in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, 6% in the North and 2% in the Atlantic provinces.

Additional statistics given on the Missing Justice website (www.missingjustice.ca) are equally troubling: 75% of Aboriginal girls under 18 have experienced some form of sexual abuse; 90% of teen urban sex-workers in Canada are Aboriginal; and 60% of known perpetrators of violence against Native women are white men.

The February 14 demonstration was the sixth annual event in Montreal to call attention to missing and murdered women. A prayer and candlelight vigil at Phillips Square followed the march, which was escorted by police and shut down different areas along St. Catherine Street.

Délai prolongé pour présenter une demande de crédits personnels d'une **valeur pouvant atteindre 3 000 $** pour des programmes éducationnels, linguistiques ou culturels.

Les bénéficiaires du Paiement d'expérience commune en vertu de la Convention de règlement relative aux pensionnats indiens peuvent recevoir jusqu'à 3 000 $ sous forme de crédits personnels pour des programmes ou services d'éducation.

Cela comprend des cours dans des universités, des collèges ou des écoles de métier ou de formation, ou des programmes ou ateliers fournis par des groupes communautaires ou des centres culturels qui offrent des activités liées aux langues ou à la culture autochtones. Les crédits personnels peuvent être utilisés par les bénéficiaires du Paiement d'expérience commune ou partagés avec un ou deux membres de leur famille, ou encore mis en commun dans le but d'obtenir des services d'éducation collective.

La date limite pour présenter une demande a été prolongée au **9 mars 2015**. De l'aide pour remplir le formulaire d'attestation de crédits personnels est offerte.

Pour plus d'information, consultez le site Web www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca ou communiquez par téléphone avec les organisations suivantes :

- Ligne d'information principale : **1-866-343-1858**
- Assemblée des Premières Nations : **1-866-869-6789**
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Iqaluit : **1-888-646-0006**
- Société régionale inuvialuite, Inuvik : **1-867-777-7092**
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David Robertson
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by Amy German

The *Dirty Apron Cookbook* is like taking an at-home cooking class. It offers recipes for every level of home cooking, from the novice to the expert, and takes you through meals from dawn until dusk.

Artfully penned by renowned West Coast chef David Robertson, who made a name for himself at Chambar in Vancouver and then opened up the Dirty Apron Cooking School and Delicatessen in 2009, this cookbook is lush with beautiful photography and recipes that are perfect for pleasing yourself, your family or a crowd.

Like many cookbooks published these days, The *Dirty Apron Cookbook* celebrates fresh food in a very simple fashion. It also showcases technique, broken down into easy steps. You can learn a tremendous amount, as Robertson's presentation is unintimidating.

Starting with a section on sensational brunch recipes, moving to some scrumptious lunchtime soups and salads and then some delicatessen stunners for lunches, followed by other sections on seafood, poultry and meats, desserts and then other basics, Robertson's ideas are creative, inspiring and inviting.

From gorgeous crepes to simple squash soups, a Kale Caesar Salad that will knock your socks off, a recipe for perogies with dill sour cream that will have you on your knees, some excellent ideas for fish and seafood, and some marvelous preparations for your meats (including a killer recipe for hoisin-glazed ribs), The *Dirty Apron Cookbook* will become an essential part of your daily cooking experience.

Here are three recipes pulled from the pages of The *Dirty Apron Cookbook* for those who want to give Robertson's fare a try or just peruse his ideas.

Citrus and Herb Butter-Crusted Salmon with White Balsamic Beurre Blanc

Serves 4

Herb panko

1 cup loosely packed mixed herbs (parsley, basil and chives)
½ cup panko crumbs

Citrus and herb butter-crusted salmon

4 skinless, boneless sockeye salmon fillets, each 6 oz
½ cup butter, room temperature
1 cup herb panko
juice and zest of ½ lemon

White balsamic beurre blanc

1 tsp olive oil
1 shallot, finely diced
¼ cup white wine
¼ cup white balsamic vinegar
3 tbsp whipping cream
½ cup unsalted butter, cold, in ½-inch cubes

Herb panko – Place the herbs in a food processor and mix until finely chopped. Add the panko and blend until the mixture turns green. Set aside. Will keep refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 1 week or frozen for up to 2 months.

Citrus and herb butter-crusted salmon – Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line an ovenproof baking pan with parchment paper, then arrange the salmon fillets in a single layer on top.

Combine the butter, herb panko, and lemon juice and zest in a food processor until well mixed. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Spread the crust mixture over the salmon, then bake for about 8 minutes or until the crust has browned.

White balsamic beurre blanc – Heat the olive oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add the shallots and sauté until soft, about 2 minutes. Pour in the white wine and vinegar and allow to simmer until only 2 to 3 tablespoons remain. Stir in the cream and simmer for 1 minute.

Using a whisk, vigorously stir in the butter, one cube at a time, until all the butter has been incorporated. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from the heat. Place a fine chinois over a clean bowl, then strain the sauce through it. Discard the solids.

To serve – Arrange the salmon on individual plates and spoon some of the beurre blanc over the fish. Serve immediately.

**Chef's Note – The citrus herb butter in this recipe can be frozen and used to crust all types of fish.*

This ravioli is a classroom favourite at The Dirty Apron – even the hard-core carnivores love it. Make a big batch of ravioli and freeze it for future use or serve it as a vegetarian main course.

Arugula and Goat Cheese Ravioli with Walnut and Sage Butter Sauce

Arugula and goat cheese ravioli

Serves 4

- 1 cup loosely packed arugula
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- ¼ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- ¾ cup soft goat cheese
- 1 recipe pasta dough (recipe below) all-purpose flour, for dusting

Walnut and sage butter sauce

- 1/3 cup unsalted butter
- ½ cup coarsely chopped walnuts
- 12 sage leaves
- 12 cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 1/3 cup arugula grated Parmesan, to garnish aged balsamic vinegar, to garnish

Arugula and goat cheese ravioli – Finely chop the arugula and place it in a small bowl. Add the olive oil and the cheeses, combine well, and season with salt and pepper. Lightly dust a work surface with flour. Cut a sheet of pasta in half and arrange it with the long side parallel to the counter. Fill a small bowl with cold water.

Using a tablespoon, mound a bit of the filling in the centre of the pasta sheet about an inch in from one end. Mound the next bit of filling about 2 inches from the first one. Continue until the sheet is covered with spoonfuls of filling. Remember to leave about an inch between the last bit of filling and the far edge of the pasta. Dip your finger in the cold water and lightly brush the pasta in between the fillings. Place the other half of the pasta sheet over the mounds of the fillings. Gently press in between the mounds to seal the filling in and press any air out. Using a ravioli cutter (or a round cutter or a sharp knife), cut the pasta into squares or circles. Repeat with the remaining pasta and filling. (You should have 18 to 20 ravioli.)

Set a large pot of water on the stove to boil.

Walnut and sage butter sauce – In a large sauté pan, combine the butter, walnuts and sage over high heat until the butter begins to brown and the milk solids start to foam at the top, about 1 minute. Remove the pan from the heat as soon as this happens, so that the butter won't burn.

Finish ravioli – Cook the ravioli in boiling water until they are tender, about 3 minutes. Drain the ravioli and add them to the sauté pan of browned butter and sage. Toss well, then add the cherry tomatoes and arugula. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon onto individual plates and serve garnished with grated Parmesan and a few drops of balsamic vinegar.

**Chef's Note – Feel free to use ricotta cheese instead of goat cheese.*

Pasta Dough

Serves 6 to 8

- 1¼ cup (180 g or 6.25 oz) tipo "00" flour (see Chef's Note)
- 1¼ cup (180 g or 6.25 oz) semola flour (see Chef's Note)
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Place the "00" and semola flours into a large bowl, mix well with a fork and make a well in the centre. Crack the eggs into the well and add the

olive oil. Using a fork, beat the eggs and oil until smooth.

Working from the centre outward, use the back of the fork to draw small amounts of the flour into the egg mixture. Keep working in the flour in this way until it is completely incorporated.

When you have worked in all the flour – or when you can no longer use the fork to work in the flour – dust both hands with flour. Scoop your dough and any loose flour into a ball. Then using two hands, knead dough for about 5 minutes, or until it becomes smooth, silky and elastic.

To determine whether it is ready for shaping and rolling, use the pinch test. Using your thumb and index finger, pinch through the centre of the dough until your fingertips meet.

You know the dough is done when no dough sticks to your fingers when you pull them apart. If dough sticks to your fingers, add a pinch of flour and continue kneading.

Once the dough is ready, cut a large square of plastic wrap. Divide the dough into two parts. Wrap each portion of dough in plastic and set aside while you prepare the pasta machine. Lightly dust a clean work surface and the pasta machine with flour. Adjust the pasta machine so the rollers are at the widest setting (usually "0"), then unwrap one portion of dough, flatten it slightly and roll it through the pasta machine. Fold the dough over itself and work it through the rollers again. Continue to fold and roll the dough until it feels like suede.

Lightly dust the pasta with flour between rollings by setting it on the work surface. Adjust the pasta machine to the next narrowest setting (usually "1") and pass the dough through the rollers again. Continue to pass the dough through the rollers, adjusting the machine down another setting after each roll. If the dough becomes too long, cut it in half. Keep rolling the pasta until you reach the last or second-to-last setting. Transfer the rolled sheet(s) to a baking sheet and cover each layer with waxed paper. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Once all of the dough has been stacked on the baking sheet, wrap the entire tray tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate. The rolled dough will keep refrigerated for up to 3 days.

**Chef's Note – Good flour and fresh eggs will make all the difference to the taste and texture of your pasta. Tipo "00" is a very fine, soft wheat flour traditionally used for making homemade pasta.*

Semola flour is essentially semolina flour milled extra fine to help add body to your pasta dough. Find them in Italian specialty stores.

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The Dirty Twixer Bars

This dessert is a hybrid of my two favourite chocolate bars, Twix and Skor. These are sinfully rich bars that showcase our shortbread, a dulce de leche centre and salted caramel ganache. Make sure to sprinkle a thin line of fleur de sel on top to make this an extra-special indulgence. This recipe makes a lot of bars. You can either halve the recipe and cook the Dirty Twixters in a 9-×13-inch pan or cut them into squares, seal into an airtight container or plastic bags, and refrigerate for up to 1 week.

Yields 36 bars

Brown sugar shortbread base

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp vanilla paste
- 2 cup unsalted butter, in small cubes

Dulce de leche filling

- 2 cans (12 oz) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp fleur de sel

salted caramel ganache

- 9 oz bittersweet chocolate, roughly chopped
- 1 lb 2½ oz milk chocolate, roughly chopped
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 2¼ cup whipping cream
- 2½ cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup water
- 2½ tsp fleur de sel
- 2 tsp vanilla paste

Brown sugar shortbread base – Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a 12-x16-inch half sheet pan that has a 1-inch rim with aluminum foil. Spray the pan with nonstick cooking spray and line it with parchment paper. Set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, mix the brown sugar and flour until combined. Add the vanilla and beat until well mixed. Slowly add the butter, one cube at a time, and beat at medium-low until the dough is just combined.

Press the shortbread dough evenly into the prepared pan, then prick it all over with a fork. Bake for about 25 minutes, or until set and lightly golden. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

Dulce de leche filling – Place the cans in a pot large enough to cover them with 4 inches of water. Add the water, bring to a boil on high heat and cook, uncovered, for 4 hours, checking occasionally to be sure the water is still covering the cans. (Add more water, if necessary, to be sure the cans are constantly covered with water.)

Turn off the heat and set aside, leaving the cans in the water until everything comes to room temperature. Open the cans and spoon the sticky brown dulce de leche into a bowl. Using a spoon, stir until the mixture is smooth, then spread it over the shortbread base.

Sprinkle evenly with fleur de sel. Set aside.

Salted caramel ganache – Place the dark and milk chocolates in a large heatproof bowl and set aside. Combine the butter and cream in a small pot over low heat and cook until warm to the touch. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Heat the sugar and water in a large pot over high heat and boil the mixture, without stirring, until it reaches 250°F. (Use a candy thermometer to test the temperature.) Slowly pour the cream mixture into this syrup to make a caramel. Stir in the fleur de sel and vanilla, then pour the salted caramel over the combined chocolates and allow to sit for 5 minutes. Using a handheld blender, emulsify the mixture to make a ganache. Avoid making large bubbles. Pour this ganache over the dulce de leche and refrigerate the bars overnight. Cut into individual bars before serving.

To be Cree, or not to be Cree: An update on the 10-Year Clause Resolution

At the annual General Assembly in Waswanipi on August 7, 2014, the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government (GCC(EI)/CNG) adopted, *Resolution 2014-10: Resolution Regarding Adoption and Implementation of Uniform Interpretation of 10-Year Clause in Section 3.2.7 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* [JBNQA] *to Promote Education of Cree Youth*.

This effort started as a result of the Cree School Board's (CSB) practice of denying post-secondary education assistance to Cree beneficiaries who have not resided for 183 consecutive days in Eeyou Istchee within the past 10 years. The CSB relies on its 2003 internal policy interpreting section 3.2.7 of the JBNQA, which is more commonly known as "the 10-year clause" and reads as follows:

> "In the event [a Cree beneficiary] *is absent from the Territory during ten continuous years* and is domiciled outside the Territory, such person shall not be entitled to exercise his rights or receive benefits under the Agreement. Upon such person re-establishing his domicile in the Territory, the right of such person to exercise his rights or to receive benefits under the Agreement shall revive." (Emphasis added.)

The 10-year clause plainly states that Cree beneficiaries who are domiciled outside Eeyou Istchee remain entitled to their rights and benefits under the JBNQA unless they are also "absent from the Territory during ten continuous years." There is no 183-day residency requirement in the JBNQA or any of the laws or regulations implementing it.

The author and her niece on the shores of Fort George Island, 2013.

This is an issue that affects many, if not most, extended families in Eeyou Istchee. As a result of the Indian residential school era and unconstitutional "Indian status" laws, many of our people, particularly our women, were displaced and their descendants have grown up outside Eeyou Istchee. Insufficient housing and employment, inadequate schools, and social problems have contributed to keeping those descendants away or driving others to look for better opportunities "down south."

If the 10-year clause does not yet affect your family, it is likely to in the future as your grandchildren and great-grandchildren come of age. It is our duty as grandparents, parents, aunties and uncles, to protect the rights of our future generations and ensure that they receive the post-secondary education benefits to which they are entitled.

> Resolution 2014-10 requires that the Board of the GCC(EI)/CNG adopt the uniform interpretation of the 10-year clause set out in the resolution and to take prompt steps to work with the CSB and other entities to ensure those agencies implement the uniform interpretation. The uniform interpretation recognizes that:
>
> 1) Cree beneficiaries who are domiciled outside Eeyou Istchee for 10 consecutive years remain entitled to exercise rights and receive benefits under the JBNQA if they visit Eeyou Istchee during that period and have social, economic, political or cultural ties with their Cree community; and
>
> 2) since children have little to no control over where they live or travel, the 10-year period does not begin to run until a Cree beneficiary turns 18 (in other words, Cree beneficiaries remain entitled to the rights and benefits of the JBNQA until age 28, regardless of their domicile).

The Chairperson of the CSB publicly stated, in an article in the September 5, 2014 issue of *The Nation*, that the CSB will continue to stick to its restrictive policy on the 10-year clause, regardless of the resolution adopted by the members of the GCC(EI)/CNG. She was also

quoted as saying that she was assured by the Grand Chief and Corporate Secretary of the GCC(EI)/CNG that the resolution is simply "a nonbinding recommendation."

The GCC(EI)/CNG Board met in Chisasibi on September 24 and 25, 2014, for the first time after the 2014 Annual General Assembly. One of their agenda items was implementation of Resolution 2014-10. The Board directed the Corporate Secretary, John Paul Murdoch, to analyze the issues and report back to the Board at its next meeting, in December 2014.

The Executive Committee of the GCC(EI)/CNG Board met on October 16, 2014, and discussed ongoing negotiations with Quebec and Canada to amend the 10-year clause. The proposed amendment, which came about before Resolution 2014-10 was adopted, would create a new exemption to the 10-year clause for certain Cree beneficiaries who are absent from Eeyou Istchee during 10 continuous years. As currently drafted, it does not expressly affirm that the amendment does not limit the rights of Cree beneficiaries who are domiciled outside Eeyou Istchee but who have *not* been absent during 10 continuous years.

The GCC(EI)/CNG Board met in Gatineau on December 18, 2014. They adopted a resolution establishing a "Working Group on the Ten-Year Clause" to evaluate the implications of adopting the uniform interpretation of the 10-year clause approved by the membership in Resolution 2014-10. The Working Group is comprised of two representatives of the GCC(EI)/CNG (Paul John Murdoch and Bill Namagoose), two representatives of the CSB, and two representatives of the Cree Board of Health.

The Working Group is mandated to "hear and receive, from any interested Cree beneficiary or Cree entity, their views, opinions, submissions and considerations concerning the interpretation and application of the ten-year clause." The Working Group must report back to the GCC(EI)/CNG Board within 6 months with recommendations to ensure a uniform interpretation and application of the 10-year clause by the Cree entities who administer JBQA benefits.

The Working Group met on February 17, 2015, to determine how to proceed. It is expected that they will establish a timeline and process for Cree beneficiaries and Cree entities to provide their feedback, so their final report can be presented to the membership at the Annual General Assembly in August 2015.

Please take the time to educate yourselves about the issue and make sure your voice is heard. The rights of our future generations are at stake. By participating in the Working Group process and attending the Annual General Assembly in August you can help ensure that our leaders implement the will of Eeyouch/Eenouch as expressed in Resolution 2014-10.

For more information see www.facebook.com/tenyearclause, a public forum for Cree beneficiaries who want to learn more about the issue.

Joanne Willis Newton
Member of Cree Nation of Chisasibi

There is still more time to apply for **Personal Credits of up to $3000** for educational, language or cultural programs.

Individuals who received a Common Experience Payment under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement are eligible for up to $3000 in Personal Credits for education programs and services.

These include courses at universities, colleges, trade or training schools or for programs and workshops provided by community-based groups or cultural centres for activities related to Aboriginal language and culture. Personal Credits can be used by a Common Experience Payment recipient, shared with up to two family members or pooled for group education services.

The deadline to apply has been extended to **March 9, 2015**. Help with completing the Personal Credits Acknowledgment Form is available.

Find out more at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca or by phone:

- Main information line: **1-866-343-1858**
- Assembly of First Nations: **1-866-869-6789**
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Iqaluit: **1-888-646-0006**
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvik: **1-867-777-7092**
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Fires are all too common in First Nations communities

by Xavier Kataquapit

Among the greatest dangers of life in a remote northern Aboriginal community during the cold winter months are home fires.

In the past, our homes were surrounded by many dangers associated with fire and the potential for disaster. Since electrical heating can be expensive and even prohibitive for some Native communities, people resort to wood stoves.

During my childhood in Attawapiskat, the iron woodstove at the centre of our home was a normal part of life. Mom and dad always assigned us the daily chore of bringing in an armload of wood whenever we came through the door. We were cautioned to stay away from the hot stove and our parents kept a close eye on the baking pipes and stray sparks that fell when the stove door was opened.

The odds seemed stacked against us. We lived in substandard homes with insufficient insulation even though we were situated in the one of the coldest regions of the country. This meant we relied heavily on wood heat. Others relied on electrical heating which also could be hazardous as heaters running continually on high could catch fire.

I remember as a child that it was a normal part of every winter to hear the screams of "fire," as some poor unfortunate family would have their home go up in flames. We would all run out to investigate and thankfully much of the time the fires were small and quickly extinguished by quick-thinking individuals with little or no fire training. At times the fires were terrible and resulted in the loss of life or severe injury.

Some terrible memories came back to me when I read of a house fire at the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation in Saskatchewan recently, where two small children died. The fact that the community was no longer able to run its own fire services and instead had to rely on outside help rang all too familiar to me. I was reminded of the great difficulties my home community and many other First Nations across Canada have to face on an ongoing basis when it comes to fire protection.

On several occasions in Attawapiskat, we watched in horror as homes burned with people trapped in them. A tragic fire in a small remote First Nation hits everyone so hard as everyone is so close knit. There are few things worse than being part of a helpless crowd looking on as flames devour a home.

Although things have progressed over the past 20 years, there are still many challenges for First Nations when it comes to fire protection. In many cases there is just not enough funding to put together a state-of-the-art volunteer firefighting service. Adequate management and training are lacking.

Due to the fact that many homes are still heated by wood and these houses are not well insulated, the chance of a fire during freezing temperatures is great. People are forced to maintain roaring fires in their stoves or use constant full-on electrical heating to keep warm. In addition, there is a housing crisis in First Nations across Canada and often homes are crammed with too many people.

These conditions produce the environment for tragic fires such as the one in Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation. There is a need for more funding, better management and training for the volunteer firefighters and the development of decent housing. It is time for the governments – non-Native and Native – to step up and tackle this problem.

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